

DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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SBA Economic Injury Loan Deadline is August 2 Business owners still have time to apply

FORT WORTH, TX -- Businesses in some North Dakota, Montana, and South Dakota counties have until **August 2, 2004** to file applications for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans are available for businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers sustaining crop losses due to flooding, ground saturation, storms, winds, tornadoes, high humidity, dry conditions, and severe temperatures that occurred from April 1, 2003, and continuing. Farmers and ranchers are not eligible for these SBA loans. Businesses in the following counties are eligible to apply:

North Dakota:

The entire State of North Dakota.

Montana:

Fallon Roosevelt Wibaux Richland Sheridan

South Dakota:

Brown Corson Marshall Perkins Campbell Harding McPherson Roberts

Applications and further information can be obtained by calling the SBA toll-free at 1-800-366-6303 or TDD 817-267-4688 for the hearing impaired.

These loans are intended to assist businesses in offsetting working capital losses which they suffered as a result of the severe weather reducing the crop income of the area farmers and ranchers. Small businesses claiming to have been physically injured by the disaster are not eligible.

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For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster.